

Week Ending Friday, July 28, 2000

**Proclamation 7331—Parents’ Day,  
2000**

*July 21, 2000*

*By the President of the United States  
of America*

**A Proclamation**

Parents play a crucial role in shaping our lives and the life of our Nation. They nurture us as infants when we are unable to help ourselves, protect us as toddlers when we wander into trouble, encourage us as adolescents when we dream about the future, and guide us as adults as we face the challenges and opportunities of our own families and careers. It is through their care that we learn the invaluable lessons of love, family, and community; and it is through their selflessness that we come to understand the joy of making a difference in the life of another.

Throughout our Administration, Vice President Gore and I have strived to provide parents with the tools they need to meet their responsibilities. The Family and Medical Leave Act, which I signed in 1993, has allowed more than 20 million Americans to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for a newborn or an ailing relative without fear of losing their job. We have also worked to make child care safer, better, and more affordable for millions of families, and we have expanded preschool and after-school programs to give parents more flexibility in balancing the demands of job and family. And we have worked hard for parents to make the dream of a college education for their sons and daughters a reality—with new HOPE scholarships, more work-study opportunities, higher Pell grants, and more affordable student loans.

Parenting is a lifetime commitment and a lifetime challenge—it involves balancing the demands of family, friends, career, and community. Yet parenting is also one of life’s

greatest gifts. To hold one’s sleeping baby, watch one’s children take their first tottering steps and hear them say their first words, boast with pride about their first home run or first music recital, and witness firsthand their journey into adulthood—these are some of the most precious rewards of parenthood.

Only when we pass from childhood to adulthood can we appreciate the value of our parents and the extent of their sacrifices. For these, we owe our parents—whether biological or adoptive, stepparents or foster parents—a profound debt of gratitude. On Parents’ Day and throughout the year, let us pay tribute to America’s parents, whose unconditional love and constant devotion have helped create a bright future for the next generation.

**Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton,** President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States and consistent with Public Law 103–362, do hereby proclaim Sunday, July 23, 2000, as Parents’ Day. I call upon all Americans to join together in observing this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities to honor our Nation’s parents.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-first day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

**William J. Clinton**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., July 24, 2000]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 22, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on July 25.

**Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori of Japan in Okinawa, Japan**

*July 22, 2000*

***Japan-U.S. Trade***

**Q.** Mr. President, has Mr. Mori agreed to a fourth year of the trade deregulation talks with the U.S.?

**President Clinton.** Maybe the Prime Minister should answer that.

**Prime Minister Mori.** Yes, we agreed to continue the dialog for another year.

**President Clinton.** And I'm very pleased about that because it's, I think, been a very fruitful thing for both our countries, and I think it will—the agreements we've made here at this summit, I think, will be very positive for Japan's economy and our relationship.

***North Korea***

**Q.** Mr. President, what is your assessment of North Korea's offer to curb its missile program in exchange for space exploration assistance? Is there any reason to believe that's credible?

And Mr. Prime Minister, were you reassured by that offer?

**President Clinton.** Well, let me say, based on what President Putin said last night in our conversations, I think that it's something that needs to be explored, and we need to see exactly what the specifics are. I think that he would agree with that, too. It's not clear to me exactly what the offer is and what is being requested and the time for it. But I think we heard enough so that there should be an attempt to determine what the facts are here, but I can't say that I'm clear enough on what the offer was to make a final judgment.

NOTE: The exchange began at 9 a.m. at the Bankoku Shinryokan convention center. In his remarks, the President referred to President Vladimir Putin of Russia. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

**The President's Radio Address**

*July 22, 2000*

Good morning. Today I want to talk about securing our economic future by keeping our prosperity going and extending its benefits to all Americans. For more than 7 years now, our Nation has stuck to a course of fiscal discipline. We've made tough choices, paid down the national debt, invested in our people. The strategy is clearly paying off, with the longest economic expansion and the largest budget surplus in our history. Now we have the chance to pass responsible tax cuts as we continue to pursue solid economic policy.

But instead of following the sensible path that got us here, congressional Republicans are treating this surplus as if they'd won it in the lottery. Although it took 7½ years to put deficits behind us, Congress has already drained more than \$900 billion of the projected surplus on tax breaks, most of it in just the last few weeks. And they've promised to do even more, working from numbers that are nothing more than estimates from the future.

Taken together, the tax cuts passed last year and this year by this Congress would completely erase the entire projected surplus over 10 years. The majority seems to have forgotten that projections in a report are not the same as dollars in the bank.

Think of it: If someone asked you, "What is your projected income over the next 10 years? Now we want you to sign a contract committing you to spend every single penny of it right now," would you do it? Would you spend all your money now and save nothing for retirement or emergencies or educating your children? Well, that's exactly what congressional Republicans want us to do—sign away a budget surplus we don't yet have and may not get.

In good conscience I cannot sign one expensive tax break after another without any coherent strategy for safeguarding our financial future. At this rate there will be no resources left for extending the life of Social Security or Medicare, a real Medicare prescription drug benefit, investing in education, much less getting us out of debt, which is so critical to our continued economic health.